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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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July 22, 2008

Mr. David Jacobs
Project Executive
JBG South East Federal Center (SEFC) Ventures
4445 Willard Avenue, Suite 400
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4641

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Oversight Committee is investigating reports that the new Department of Transportation Headquarters, which opened in the Spring of 2007, does not comply with long-standing statutory and regulatory requirements concerning accessibility for Department of Transportation employees and visitors with disabilities. Through legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Architectural Barriers Act, Congress has attempted to make the federal government an equal-opportunity employer for workers with disabilities and a model of accessibility to the private sector. Recent press accounts, however, have reported that the Department's new Headquarters building may not fully adhere to these standards.

The Committee understands that the new Headquarters is covered by a 15-year "build-to-suit" lease agreement between GSA and JBG/ SEFC Ventures. To assist the Committee in this investigation, I request that JBG produce the following documents:

1. The lease agreement for the new Headquarters;
2. All contracts, task orders, amendments, and modifications related to the construction and design of the Headquarters;
3. All documents and internal communications related to the Headquarters building and premises' compliance with federal disability access statutes and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Architectural Barriers Act, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and other applicable statutes and regulations;

Mr. David Jacobs
July 22, 2008
Page 2

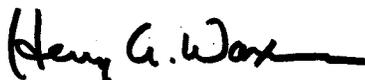
4. All communications related to compliance of the Headquarters building and premises with federal disability access statutes and regulations, including those with the General Services Administration and the Department of Transportation, the Access Board, the District of Columbia, Michael Graves Associates, and DMJM;
5. All communications about the disability accessibility compliance expertise of Michael Graves and Associates, DMJM, and other contractors and subcontractors for the construction and design of the Headquarters; and
6. All communications related to financial responsibility for remediating accessibility deficiencies at the Headquarters and its premises.

Please provide this information by August 1, 2008.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Committee's request.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact David Rapallo or Daniel Davis of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member